

## CLAIMS

The following listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims.

1. (currently amended) A method comprising:

receiving wagers from ~~a player~~ players playing paid games on a ~~first gaming device~~  
plurality of eligible gaming devices;

detecting a bonus round initiation signal for all the eligible gaming devices;

enabling the ~~player~~ players to simultaneously play N a plurality of free bonus games,  
~~where N is greater than or equal to 1~~ on the plurality of eligible gaming devices as a result of  
the bonus round initiation signal;

determining a base award to at least a winning ~~the~~ player of the bonus games based on  
a certain outcome of the bonus games played;

multiplying the base award by a multiplier to obtain a multiplied award, wherein the  
multiplier is based on a number of players playing the bonus games; and

granting the multiplied award to ~~the~~ at least the winning player of the bonus games.

2. (cancelled)

3. (cancelled)

4. (cancelled)

5. (currently amended) The method of Claim 4- 1 wherein ~~at least one~~ the  
multiplier is a fraction of the number of players playing the bonus games.

6. (currently amended) The method of Claim 4- 1 wherein ~~at least one~~ the  
multiplier equals the number of players.

7. (currently amended) A method comprising:

receiving wagers from players playing paid games on a plurality of eligible gaming devices;

detecting a bonus round initiation signal for all the eligible gaming devices;

enabling the players to simultaneously play a plurality of bonus games on the plurality of eligible gaming devices as a result of the bonus round initiation signal;

determining a base award to at least one or more players of the bonus games based on a certain outcome of the bonus games played, the players being ranked at and end of the bonus round relative to one another;

multiplying the base award by a multiplier to obtain a multiplied award; and

granting the multiplied award to a plurality of players of the bonus games,

~~The method of Claim 3 further comprising determining~~ wherein the multiplier is based on a player's ranking after the bonus round.

8. (cancelled)

9 (cancelled)

10. (cancelled)

11. (cancelled)

12. (currently amended) The method of Claim ~~3~~ 1 wherein determining a base award is also based on a player's ranking at the end of the bonus round.

13. (original) The method of Claim 12 wherein the player's ranking is based on total awards accumulated by the player during the bonus round.

14. (cancelled)

15. (cancelled)

16. (original) The method of Claim 1 wherein determining a base award comprises determining a base award to the player based on displays of symbols across one or more paylines during the bonus games.

17. (original) The method of Claim 1 wherein determining a base award comprises granting a jackpot, a portion of a jackpot, a fixed award, a progressive award, or a mystery award to the player.

18- 27. (cancelled)